



Lt. Governor Skillman Says Greencastle is Officially "Stellar"

Last week I was in Putnam County to name the city of Greencastle one of Indiana's first "Stellar Communities". Greencastle and North Vernon are part of the pilot program and will up to share \$31 million in grants over the next three years.

Stellar Communities is a first of its kind collaboration initiated by my office – involving the Indiana Department of Transportation, the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Agency, and the State Revolving Fund – to help fund communities' strategic plans.

The Stellar Communities program allows local leaders to look toward long-term, comprehensive planning. State government always had a piecemeal approach to distributing funds, providing grants for small projects over the course of several years. Working together now, these state agencies will communicate better, collaborate effectively and invest strategically.



Lt. Governor Skillman was in Greencastle to name the city a pilot community in a new comprehensive community development program called Stellar Communities.

Greencastle has a plan to become Indiana's next great college town, and the state is proud to help them. City leaders developed [partnerships with DePauw University](#), private developers, and arts organizations that made this proposal truly stellar. The community plans to:

- Revitalize the courthouse square and central business district with streetscape

improvements, façade renovations and signage

- Relocate the DePauw University bookstore to the central business district
- Add public parking solutions in the downtown area
- Add new housing options including lofts in the commercial district and new construction in the South Court neighborhood
- Construct a community health center and other wellness initiatives, such as a walking and fitness trail
- Partner with Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra to provide concerts in Greencastle, a youth orchestra program and master music classes
- Create a technology hub and Wi-Fi bubble in the commercial district
- Use these projects to leverage future private investment including housing, retail, student housing, church expansion and more

The State of Indiana will contribute several millions over three years to projects in Greencastle, using existing federal dollars. The community will provide matching funds. I'm impressed by the strong partnerships, especially between the city and DePauw University. This kind of partnership will enable the city to leverage funding and make these projects a success.

Forty-two communities applied to be a pilot city in the Stellar Community program. But in the end, the Greencastle and North Vernon proposals stood out. I see this as the first step toward moving our state forward, one community at a time.

What we accomplish through Stellar Communities in Greencastle and North Vernon will be an example of a more efficient and strategic government. Greencastle's achievements will have a lasting impact, not only on the city, but also on our entire state. Congratulations!



Lt. Governor Skillman oversees the Indiana Department of Agriculture, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, the Office of Energy Development, the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, and the Office of Tourism Development. For more, visit her on the web at www.lg.in.gov.